

King was forced to exculpate his uncle as a measure calculated to discourage the rebels. Salisbury and the other nobles who were with him at the time counselled him to adopt this course. On July 3 he issued a letter clearing the Duke of all charges of disloyalty, and two days later another ordering Percy to conduct him safely home through the kingdom. When these missives reached the North, the Duke's joy and the Earl's chagrin can well be imagined. Guarded by a strong force of cavalry, John of Gaunt passed through the Midlands and appeared early in August in his nephew's presence at Beading, where he received a commission to put down the Eising in Yorkshire and to keep the peace in all the Northern shires.¹

Eichard now moved towards Kent, where he visited Wrotharn and Leeds. The county was still in a very disturbed state. It had been reduced once by the Earl of Kent, who had held hanging assizes at Maidstone, but the work had gone on but slowly, and there had been continued local resistance.² On July 10 the forces of order were still garrisoning fortresses in a hostile country.³ When the King came from Reading at the end of August, the rebellion in Kent had been beaten down ; but it was not yet stamped out, for a month later it revived. On September 29, a body of desperate men recaptured Maidstone, slew some gentlemen, including the Sheriff of the county, and marched on the capital. They reached Deptford, at the foot of Blackheath, but could make no further progress. One of their number, John Cote, afterwards turned approver and gave an account of the objects and intentions of this second rebellion, which are exactly such as we should expect. These later rebels demanded all the liberties and pardons that had been granted in June, and intended, if they could not get these confirmed, to kill the King and his Council. It is small wonder that the feeling of the rebels towards Richard had changed in three months from love to hatred. The boy had been all gentleness and sympathy in London. He had told them he was their leader, he had accepted their loyal adherence,

¹ Knighton, ii. 145-9; Bev., 290, note 1; Froiss., ii. 481-4 ; *Feed.*, iv. 126--8,

² 4wc. *Ind.*, no. 35, passim.
Bolls, 1381, p. 2S.

• *Calendar of Patent*